

Patent Case: DX0757K

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22. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8, or a polypeptide having at least about 80% sequence homology thereto.

23. (amended) The nucleic acid of Claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7, or a nucleic acid having at least about 80% sequence homology thereto.

24. (amended) A recombinant vector comprising:  
a) a nucleic acid according to Claim 22; and  
b) control elements that are operably linked to said nucleic acid whereby a coding sequence within said nucleic acid can be transcribed and translated in a host cell, and at least one of said control elements is heterologous to said coding sequence.

25. (amended) A host cell transformed with the recombinant vector of Claim 24.

26. (amended) A method of producing a recombinant polypeptide comprising:  
a) providing a population of host cells according to Claim 25; and  
b) culturing said population of cells under conditions whereby a polypeptide encoded by the coding sequence present in said recombinant vector is expressed.

27. (amended) A method of expressing a recombinant polypeptide comprising:  
a) transforming a host cell with the recombinant vector of Claim 22; and  
b) causing expression of a polypeptide encoded by the coding sequence present in said recombinant vector.

Please add new claims 37-40 as follows:

37. (new) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid which comprises a nucleic acid encoding an antigenic polypeptide comprising:  
a) an 8 amino acid fragment of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8;  
b) a 12 amino acid fragment of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8;  
or  
c) a 27 amino acid fragment of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8.

38. (new) A kit comprising:  
a) the isolated or recombinant nucleic acid of Claim 37 in a compartment; and  
b) instructions for use or disposal of reagents in said kit.

39. (new) An expression vector which comprises the isolated or recombinant nucleic acid of Claim 37.

40. (new) A host cell transformed with the expression vector of Claim 39.

#### REMARKS

Applicants elect Group VII. (Claims 11-19 and 22-27) without traverse. These claims are directed to a nucleic acid encoding a protein of amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8, a host cell, and a kit comprising said nucleic acid.